

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 08227 211928Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3666

UNCLASSIFIED BELGRADE 8227

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP ASIG
SUBJ: INSPECTION REPORT - STAFFING ISSUES

REF: STATE 264529

1. WE HAVE RE-EXAMINED THE INSPECTORS "RECOMMENDATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUING DIFFERENCE OF JUDGEMENT REPORTED IN REFTTEL, AND HAVE ARRIVED AT THE FOLLOWING JUDGMENT:

2. CONCERNING NEW FSL POSITION IN THE ECON/COMMERCIAL SECTION, WE HAD PROPOSED THAT THE NEW COUNSELOR EVALUATE THE NEED. HE HAS NOW DONE THIS, AND WE BELIEVE THE SECTION CAN OPERATE WITHOUT THAT POSITION.

3. CONCERNING THE AMERICAN POSITION IN THE CONSULAR SECTION, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE INSPECTION TEAM UNDERSTATED THAT SECTION'S STAFFING REQUIREMENT. (WE ARE SEPARATELY DISCUSSING THE CONSULAR OPERATION IN BELGRADE 8226.) NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE INCREASED WORKLOAD SINCE 1975, WE ARE PREPARED TO ADJUST RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE SECTION AND, WITH THE DEPARTURE OF DIRK HUTCHINS IN MID-1978, TO OPERATE WITH THREE OFFICERS.

4. CONCERNING FSL STAFFING IN THE CONSULAR SECTION, THE INSPECTORS QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR TWO PERSONS IN THE FEDERAL BENEFITS BRANCH. THE REGIONAL SSA OFFICER, DURING A RECENT VISIT, CONFIRMED HIS JUDGEMENT THAT TWO PERSONS ARE REQUIRED, AND
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INFORMED US THAT SSA HAS OFFERED TO FUND ONE OF THOSE POSITIONS. WE TRUST THAT THIS WOULD RESOLVE THAT ISSUE.
EAGLEBURGER

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